



Congressional Black Caucus
of the 111th Congress

Creating Opportunities for All Pathways Out of Poverty



Hon. Barbara Lee (D-CA), Chairwoman
www.TheCongressionalBlackCaucus.com

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIRWOMAN

January 2010

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the 42 members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) of the 111th Congress I bring you greetings. The past year has been an exciting, yet challenging time for our country on many fronts. With passion and determination members of the CBC have used our leverage to work with President Obama and Congressional leaders in the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate to address the many pressing and long-term issues facing our nation.



Chairwoman Barbara Lee (CA)

Persistent concerns about the economy dominated the national agenda throughout 2009, requiring considerable attention and resources to stimulate the creation of jobs and economic growth. Members of the CBC played an integral role in crafting the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which provided immediate relief to stem the tide of job losses and economic uncertainty.

While the economic recovery package was an important first step with broad positive implications for the nation as a whole, the CBC understood the continued need to address long-term, systemic inequities in communities hardest hit by the economic downturn. The current economic crisis has had a particularly devastating effect on African Americans and other communities of color are experiencing Depression-like job losses.

In its continued role as the conscience of Congress, the CBC has a moral obligation to address inequalities and injustice wherever they exist. To that end, the CBC continues to work with the Obama administration and Congressional leaders to craft a jobs package that includes funds targeted for job creating and training for the chronically unemployed.

In addition to working to address the pressing need to create jobs and accelerate economic growth, the members of the CBC have also developed “Opportunities for All – Pathways Out of Poverty,” the shared agenda of the CBC for the 111th Congress.

“Opportunities for All – Pathways Out of Poverty” focuses on:

1. Educating low income communities
2. Increasing the reach of economic security
3. Eliminating health disparities
4. Providing just and affordable housing options
5. Strengthening civil rights and judicial system reform
6. Addressing global poverty

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRWOMAN (CONT.)



(left to right) CBC members discuss the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009; Chairwoman Barbara Lee (CA) with Del. Donna M. Christensen (VI); Chairwoman Lee with Senator Roland Burris (IL) and Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (TX), Rep. Bobby Rush (IL), Rep. Donald Payne (NJ) and Rep. Al Green (TX); Chairwoman Lee speaking with Dr. Dorothy I. Height during a meeting with NCBCP's Black Women's Roundtable.

As the Members of Congress who represent the men, women and children who are disproportionately under- and uninsured, and whose health and wellness have suffered because of the numerous gaps in our nation's health care system, the CBC has taken a leadership role in the debate over healthcare reform during the past year.

When others chided healthcare reform with a dying prognosis, we said, "No," and kept on fighting. Because of our fight, the House of Representatives passed legislation creating a strong public option, and secured inclusion of several provisions to achieve health equity, eliminate health disparities and limit the rate of increase for those with private plans.

On a number of issues ranging from developing a sustainable energy policy and combating the HIV/AIDS epidemic to reforming Wall Street or battling genocide in Darfur and myriad others, members of the Congressional Black Caucus have and will continue to use their leadership and collective strength to advance our agenda.

Included in this report you will find more detailed information on our 2009 activities: the CBC's 42 Bills to Watch and Task Force structure serve as vehicles to implement the "Opportunities for All—Pathways Out of Poverty" agenda; the listing of meetings and events reflects our commitment to building and maintaining relationships beyond the halls of Congress; and finally the listing of CBC press statements expresses our sentiments on pressing political happenings and legislative movement. Please visit our website regularly for updated information; www.TheCongressionalBlackCaucus.com.

In the year to come, we will continue to work with President Obama and Congressional leaders to make America a stronger nation that fosters the dignity of all human beings regardless of race or economic circumstances, at home and around the globe. We thank you for your continued support and look forward to working with you to build and grow for future generations.

Sincerely,

Chairwoman

Congressional Black Caucus

42 BILLS TO WATCH

The CBC **Opportunities for All** agenda is much more than equal protection under the law. It is equal protection in every area—addressing issues ranging from eradication of hunger, health disparities, and predatory lending to expanding economic opportunities, developing responsible foreign policies and granting voting rights to the residents of Washington D.C.

To supplement the priorities set forth by President Barack Obama and Congressional leadership, the 42 members of the CBC have introduced legislative vehicles to implement the **Opportunities for All** agenda and reinforce **CBC Task Force** priorities. The following list of **42 Bills to Watch** is a compilation of legislation introduced by CBC members (one submitted per member). The below listing is divided by CBC Task Force jurisdiction. The following Task Force reports will include bill summary and status information. For more information on these and other bills introduced by CBC members, please visit www.thomas.gov.



The Congressional Black Caucus of the 111th Congress

Community Reinvestment

- H.R. 272 **Freight Rail Infrastructure Capacity Expansion Act of 2009** Rep. Kendrick B. Meek (FL)
- H.R. 795 **Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr. Social Work Reinvestment Act** Rep. Edolphus Towns (NY)
- H.R. 1789 **Freight Rail Expansion Incentives** Rep. Corrine Brown (FL)
- H.R. 2355 **Making Opportunities Via Efficient and More Effective National Transportation (MOVEMENT) Act** Rep. Laura Richardson (CA)
- H.R. 2451 **Student Bill of Rights** Rep. Chaka Fattah (PA)
- H.R. 2570 **Working for Adequate Gains for Employment in Services (WAGES) Act** Rep. Donna F. Edwards (MD)
- H.R. 2979 **Julia Carson Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Families Act of 2009** Rep. Danny K. Davis (IL)
- H.R. 3465 **Federal Electronic Equipment Donation Act** Rep. G.K. Butterfield (NC)
- H. Res. 210 **Student Breakfast and Education Improvement Act** Rep. Gwen Moore (WI)

Defense, Veterans & Homeland Security

- H.R. 1849 **World War I Memorial and Centennial Act of 2009** Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, II (MO)
- H.R. 1963 **Veterans Transition Assistance Program** Rep. Charles B. Rangel (NY)
- H.R. 1982 **the Veteran's Entitlement to Service (VETS) Act of 2009** Rep. Carolyn C. Kilpatrick (MI)
- H.R. 2868 **Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Act of 2009** to be introduced by Rep. Bennie G. Thompson (MS)
- Veterans Health Care Act** Sen. Roland Burris (IL)*

42 BILLS TO WATCH (CONT.)

Budget, Appropriations & Taxation

H.R. 1596 Segal AmeriCorps Education Award Tax Relief Act of 2009 Rep. John Lewis (GA)

H.R. 1677 the Empowerment Zone, Renewal Community and Enterprise Community Enhancement Act of 2009 Rep. Artur Davis (AL)

Health & Wellness

H.R. 676 United States National Health Care Act Rep. John Conyers, Jr. (MI)

H.R. 1296 Access for All America Act Rep. James E. Clyburn (SC)

H.R. 1492 Stop AIDS in Prison Act Rep. Maxine Waters (CA)

H.R. 1551 The Responsible Education About Life (REAL) Act Rep. Barbara Lee (CA)

H.R. 2299 Minority Business Enhancement Act of 2009 Rep. Bobby L. Rush (IL)

H. Res 346 Addressing the Prostate Cancer Epidemic in African American Men Rep. Gregory W. Meeks (NY)

H.R. 2761 Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2009 Del. Donna M. Christensen (VI)

Healthy Activity and Lifelong Energy Act of 2009 Rep. Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. (GA)*

Judicial & Civil Rights

H.R. 61 Federal Prison Bureau Nonviolent Offender Relief Act of 2009 Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (TX)

H.R. 685 the United States Civil Rights Trail System Act of 2009 Rep. Wm. Lacy Clay, Jr. (MO)

H.R. 1020 Arbitration Fairness Act of 2009 Rep. Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr. (GA)

H.R. 1064/S. 435 the Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention, Support and Education (PROMISE) Act Rep. Robert C. "Bobby" Scott (VA)

H.R. 1741 Witness Security and Protection Grant Program Act of 2009 Rep. Elijah E. Cummings (MD)

H.R. 2648 Muhammad Ali Congressional Gold Medal Resolution Rep. Andre Carson (IN)

H.R. 2761 Federal Recognition of the Freedman Citizens of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma Rep. Diane E. Watson (CA)

Foreign Policy & International Relations

H.R. 144 Haitian Protection Act of 2009 Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL)

H.R. 4392 African Higher Education Expansion and Improvement Act Rep. Donald M. Payne (NY)

The Liberia SEEDS (Stabilization, Economic Empowerment, Development and Security) Act Rep. Jesse Jackson, Jr. (IL)*

Economic Security

H.R. 476 Housing Fairness Act of 2009 Rep. Al Green (TX)

H.R. 1270 the Affordable Housing and Community Development Act of 2009 Rep. Yvette D. Clarke (NY)

H.R. 1479 Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) Modernization Act of 2009 Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX)

H.R. 1728 Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act Rep. Melvin L. Watt (NC)

H.R. 1782 Fairness for Homeowners Act of 2009 Rep. Keith Ellison (MN)

H.R. 2108 Predatory Lending Practice Reduction Act of 2009 Rep. Marcia L. Fudge (OH)

H.R. 2554 National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers Reform Act Rep. David Scott (GA)

CBC TASK FORCE STRUCTURE & REPORTS

As a result of the coordinated efforts of the CBC's NINE standing task forces and various special committees, Majority Whip Clyburn, FOUR full committee chairs and EIGHTEEN subcommittee chairs, the CBC has had a tremendous and long lasting impact on the legislation during the first session of the 111th Congress. Below is more information on the CBC Task Force structure, followed by reports of Task Force activities, including updates on the corresponding **42 Bills to Watch**.

CBC Task Force Structure

Budget Appropriations & Taxation

Hon. Robert C. "Bobby" Scott (VA)

Prioritizing Federal Funds to Meet the Needs
of Our Nation

Economic Security

*Hon. Maxine Waters (CA), Hon. Gregory W. Meeks (NY)
& Hon. Keith Ellison (MN)*

Housing, Banking, Minority Business,
Agriculture, Gaming

Energy & Environment

*Hon. G.K. Butterfield (NC), Hon. Emanuel Cleaver, II
(MO) & Hon. Sheila Jackson Lee (TX)*

Green Jobs, Climate Change, Energy
& Alternative Energy Options, Environmental Justice

Foreign Policy & International Relations

Hon. Donald M. Payne (NJ)

Africa, the Caribbean, General Diplomacy,
Health, HIV/AIDS, Education, Development, Trade

Defense, Veterans & Homeland Security

*Hon. Charles B. Rangel (NY), Hon. Bennie G. Thompson
(MS) & Hon. Sanford Bishop (GA)*

National Security, Veterans Support

Health & Wellness

*Hon. Donna M. Christensen (VI) & Hon. Danny K. Davis
(IL)*

Health Care Reform, Health Disparities, HIV/AIDS,
Families: Parents & Children, Nutrition,
Women's Issues, Seniors, Disability Rights

Community Reinvestment

*Hon. Danny K. Davis (IL) & Hon. Eddie Bernice Johnson
(TX)*

Education, Labor & Federal Workforce, Science &
Technology, Multimedia, Transportation & Infrastruc-
ture, Gulf Coast Recovery, Service

Judicial & Civil Rights

*Hon. Melvin L. Watt (NC), Hon. Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
(VA) & Hon. Sheila Jackson Lee (TX)*

Census, Elections, Judicial Appointments, Immigra-
tion, Re-Entry & Restoration, Ethics & Government
Oversight, Nominations, Criminal Justice Reform

Outreach

Hon. Elijah E. Cummings (MD)

Faith Communities, Families: Women, Men, Teens &
Young Adults (16-25), Emerging Leaders: Young
Elected Officials, Young Professionals, State & Local
Governments, Congressional TriCaucus, Academia,
Entertainers & Athletes, Executive Leadership Coun-
cil/Business Community

BUDGET, APPROPRIATIONS & TAXATION

Hon. Robert C. "Bobby" Scott (VA), Chair

Focus: Prioritizing Federal Funds to Meet the Needs of Our Nation

Each year the CBC offers an alternative budget to the Democratic budget and the President's budget. The CBC budget for Fiscal Year 2010 built upon the historic investments made by the President's budget and the Democratic budget.

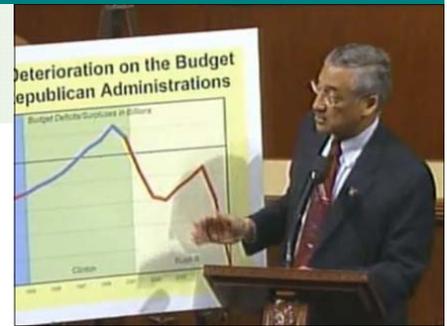
The President's budget and the Democratic budget were excellent blueprints to continue our economic recovery and return to fiscal responsibility; however, the CBC alternative budget proposed to immediately repeal the Bush-era tax cuts implemented in 2001 and 2003 for the wealthiest Americans. In addition, the CBC alternative budget proposed the "Bush Debt Tax," which is a surtax of 0.565 percent on adjusted gross income (AGI) of taxpayers with AGI in excess of \$500,000. The CBC budget set aside all the proceeds of this surtax to reduce the federal budget deficit. The additional funds would allow the CBC alternative budget to provide additional funds for critical programs – such as education, health care, job training, international aid, justice, transportation, and veterans – while at the same time reducing the deficit and saving billions in interest on the national debt.

Over a five year period compared to the Democratic budget, the CBC budget provided: \$18 billion more to healthcare; \$17 billion more to education, training, employment and social services; \$8 billion more to transportation and infrastructure; \$5.5 billion more to cost-effective crime reduction initiatives; \$5 billion more to international aid and development; \$4.5 billion to veterans' benefits and services; and Billions more on scientific research, nutrition and food programs, home ownership initiatives, housing and home energy programs.

At a time when the federal budget deficit hit a record of \$1.4 trillion in Fiscal Year 2009, the CBC budget provided additional resources to core social programs and services and simultaneously reduced the deficit by \$67 billion over a five-year period compared to the Democratic budget.

The CBC budget's smaller deficits would have saved the American taxpayer \$6.7 billion in mandatory net interest payments on the national debt when compared to the Democratic budget over this same period.

Although it did not pass the House of Representatives, the Congressional Black Caucus alternative budget attracted the support of 113 Members of Congress. The CBC alternative budget for Fiscal Year 2010 highlighted the priorities and fiscal responsibility of the Congressional Black Caucus. The CBC budget presented the American people with a sound alternative that saved billions on the deficit, while also ensuring that the federal government spent more on the programs that most affect the lives of hard-working Americans.



Rep. Robert C. "Bobby" Scott (VA) on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives; Rep. Charles B. Rangel (NY) and Rep. Donna Edwards (MD).

CBC BUDGET, APPROPRIATIONS & TAXATION BILLS TO WATCH

Legislation	Summary	Bill Status
H.R. 1677 the Empowerment Zone, Renewal Community and Enterprise Community Enhancement Act of 2009 introduced 3/24/09 by Rep. Artur Davis (AL)	Empowerment Zone, Renewal Community and Enterprise Community Enhancement Act of 2009 - Amends Internal Revenue Code provisions relating to tax-preferred empowerment zones, rural enterprise communities, and renewal communities.	3/24/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.
H.R. 1596 Segal AmeriCorps Education Award Tax Relief Act of 2009 introduced 3/18/09 by Rep. John Lewis (GA)	Segal AmeriCorps Education Award Tax Relief Act of 2009 - Amends the Internal Revenue Code to exclude from gross income for income tax purposes AmeriCorps educational awards awarded under the National and Community Service Act of 1990.	3/18/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Hon. Donna M. Christensen (VI) & Hon. Danny K. Davis (IL), Co-Chairs

Focus: Health Care Reform, Health Disparities, HIV/AIDS, Families: Parents & Children, Nutrition, Women's Issues, Seniors, Disability Rights

The CBC had a very busy, but successful year standing on the front lines of efforts to achieve health equity and improve the health, health care and wellbeing of all Americans. In addition to numerous health and health care related bills and events supported by the CBC, specific legislative highlights include the following:

Health Disparity Elimination: The Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2009 (H.R. 3090). With the Congressional TriCaucus, the CBC developed and introduced this legislation which is championed across the nation as the gold star of health disparity elimination and comprehensively addresses the root causes of this nation's health disparities crisis. Many of the existing health equity provisions in the House health care reform bill (H.R. 3962) are based on this legislation.

Health Care Reform: The Affordable Health Care for America Act (H.R. 3962). The CBC continues to play a pivotal role in health care reform. The CBC championed a strong public option, comprehensive health care measures that are tantamount to meaningful reform. The CBC ensured that health disparity elimination was integrated throughout the bill and that the residents of the U.S. Territories would have access to all components of the health care reform bill. Additionally, the CBC's leadership in health care reform has helped ensure that community-centric health equity efforts – including strengthening community health centers and supporting community health workers – were included in the reform bill.

Tobacco Control Legislation: The Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act. In June 2009, President Obama signed the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act into law. The CBC played a pivotal and leadership role in ensuring the passage of this historic bill, which regulates tobacco, keeps tobacco products out of the hands of children, and establishes a path on which menthol can be further studied and, if necessary, banned as a tobacco product additive.

Extending Ryan White and Strengthening the Minority AIDS Initiative: The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Act. In October 2009, President Obama signed into law the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Act. Since the Program was first created, the CBC has played a critical role in developing and supporting legislation around the Ryan White Program and this year was no different. This program is essential in expanding access to health care treatments and services, and improving the health and wellness of the nation's low-income men, women and children with HIV/AIDS. It also includes the Minority AIDS Initiative – an important program which provides resources to minority community-based organizations to build capacity in the communities that are hardest hit by this epidemic.

We also applaud the International AIDS Society for announcing that it will host its 2012 international conference in Washington D.C., a city which is home to some of the highest rates of HIV/AIDS among African Americans in the country. This conclave is an important opportunity to put a spotlight on America's HIV/AIDS pandemic before an international body.



Chairwoman Barbara Lee (CA), Rep. Andre Carson (IN) and Del. Donna M. Christensen (VI) join civil rights leaders for a press conference on healthcare reform; Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (TX), Del. Donna M. Christensen (VI) and Rep. Carolyn C. Kilpatrick (MI) discuss health care disparities with community advocates.

HEALTH & WELLNESS (CONT.)

CBC HEALTH & WELLNESS BILLS TO WATCH

Legislation	Summary	Bill Status
H.R. 676 United State National Health Care Act introduced 1/26/09 by Rep. John Conyers, Jr. (MI)	To provide for comprehensive health insurance coverage for all United States residents, improved health care delivery, and for other purposes.	1/26/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.
H.R. 1296 Access for All America Act introduced 3/4/09 by Rep. James E. Clyburn (SC)	To achieve access to comprehensive primary health care services for all Americans and to reform the organization of primary care delivery through an expansion of the Community Health Center and National Health Service Corps programs.	3/4/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.
H.R. 1429 Stop AIDS in Prison Act introduced 3/11/09 by Rep. Maxine Waters (CA)	To provide for an effective HIV/AIDS program in Federal prisons.	3/18/2009 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.
H.R. 1551 the Responsible Education About Life (REAL) Act introduced 3/17/09 by Rep. Barbara Lee (CA)	To provide for the reduction of adolescent pregnancy, HIV rates, and other sexually transmitted diseases, and for other purposes.	3/17/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.
H.R. 2299 Minority Business Enhancement Act of 2009 introduced 1/19/09 by Rep. Bobby L. Rush (IL)	To amend the Small Business Act to enhance services to small business concerns that are disadvantaged, and for other purposes.	5/7/2009 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Contracting and Technology .
H.R. 3090 Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2009 introduced by Del. Donna M. Christensen (VI)	To improve the health of minority individuals, and for other purposes.	8/19/2009 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties.
H. Res 346 Addressing the Prostate Cancer Epidemic in African American Men introduced 4/21/09 by Rep. Gregory W. Meeks (NY)	Recognizing that the occurrence of prostate cancer in African-American men has reached epidemic proportions and urging Federal agencies to address that health crisis by designating additional funds for research, education, awareness outreach, and early detection.	4/21/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.
Healthy Activity and Lifelong Energy Act of 2009 to be introduced by Rep. Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. (GA)		This bill has not yet been introduced. Mr. Bishop intends to drop the bill before the end of the 1 st session.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Hon. Maxine Waters (CA), Hon. Gregory W. Meeks (NY) & Hon. Keith Ellison (MN), Co-Chairs

Focus: Housing, Banking, Minority Business, Agriculture, Gaming



(left to right) Rep. Maxine Waters (CA) leads press conference on economic security; CBC members on the House Financial Services Committee; Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, II speaks at CBC press conference on job security.

The Congressional Black Caucus has advocated strongly for the economic security of African American communities. Below is a highlight of activities:

MWBE Empowerment: The CBC Economic Security Taskforce began the year with a Summit on the TARP and TALF programs to assist finance professionals in learning about and accessing opportunities within those programs. The TARP/TALF Summit directly connected 350 Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBE's) with federal agency programs and prime contractor opportunities. These efforts extended throughout the year.

Financial Services Reform: CBC members of the Financial Services Committee secured the following provisions in the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2009 (H.R. 4173):

- \$3 billion to allow unemployed or underemployed homeowners in default on their mortgages to receive low-interest loans in order to stay in their homes;
- \$1 billion in Neighborhood Stabilization Program funds for local governments to purchase and rehabilitate foreclosed, abandoned and vacant housing and to alleviate blight in communities;
- Establishment of Offices of Minority and Women Inclusion at all major financial regulatory agencies, including the Treasury Department, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Federal Housing Finance Agency, the Federal Reserve Board and others. Each Office will oversee efforts to include women and minorities in both employment and contracting opportunities;
- Addition of five members to the Consumer Financial Protection Oversight Board from fields such as consumer protection, fair lending or civil rights;
- The Federal Insurance Office would be empowered to monitor the extent to which low-income individuals and minorities have access to affordable insurance; and
- Requirement that the Financial Services Oversight Council consider the economic impact of the default of a failing institution on minority and low-income communities before winding down such a firm.

Housing: CBC Members of the Financial Services Committee were also able to improve the “Jobs Bill”—H.R. 2847—by securing \$1 billion for repairs to public housing and \$1 billion to fund the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

ECONOMIC SECURITY (CONT.)

As the year progressed, it became apparent that African American communities were being severely affected by the weakened economy. To strengthen access to recovery dollars and address the needs of the chronically unemployed, the CBC established a special task force led by Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, II (MO) to mobilize around the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act and jobs. Here is a highlight of CBC efforts:

American Recovery & Reinvestment Act: The CBC formulated priorities for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and conveyed these to House Leadership and the President. Priorities included an increase in the Neighborhood Stabilization Fund to protect homes from foreclosure, workforce investment, school construction and rebuilding, advanced tele-com services for disadvantaged communities and support for small and disadvantaged businesses.

Jobs: The CBC has worked diligently to raise awareness of ever-increasing unemployment and underemployment within minority communities, and to close the economic disparities in our nation. To help put people back to work, to provide pathways out of poverty, and equal opportunity for all, the CBC focused on expanding access to education, job training, direct job creation, infrastructure development, and economic opportunities, with an emphasis areas of economic hardship. The forthcoming jobs package has included significant increases in training dollars for low income communities, as well as summer jobs directed at low income youth.

CBC ECONOMIC SECURITY BILLS TO WATCH

Legislation	Summary	Status
H.R. 476 Housing Fairness Act of 2009 introduced 1/13/09 by Rep. Al Green (TX)	To authorize funds to prevent housing discrimination through the use of nationwide testing, to increase funds for the Fair Housing Initiatives Program, and for other purposes.	1/13/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Financial Services.
H.R. 1270 the Affordable Housing and Community Development Act of 2009 introduced 3/3/09 by Rep. Yvette D. Clarke (NY)	To reauthorize community development block grants, and for other purposes.	3/3/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Financial Services.
H.R. 1479 Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) Modernization Act of 2009 introduced 3/12/09 by Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX)	To enhance the availability of capital, credit, and other banking and financial services for all citizens and communities, to ensure that community reinvestment requirements are updated to account for changes in the financial industry and that reinvestment requirements keep pace as banks, securities firms, and other financial service providers become affiliates as a result of the enactment of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, and for other purposes.	3/12/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.
H.R. 1728 Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act introduced 3/26/09, Rep. Melvin L. Watt (NC) served as an original cosponsor.	To amend the Truth in Lending Act to reform consumer mortgage practices and provide accountability for such practices, to provide certain minimum standards for consumer mortgage loans, and for other purposes.	5/12/2009 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.
H.R. 1782 Fairness for Homeowners Act of 2009 introduced 3/30/09 by Rep. Keith Ellison (MN)	To amend the Truth in Lending Act to protect consumers from certain practices in connection with the origination of consumer credit transactions secured by the consumer's principal dwelling, and for other purposes.	3/30/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Financial Services.
H.R. 2108 Predatory Lending Practice Reduction Act of 2009 introduced 4/28/09 by Rep. Marcia L. Fudge (OH)	To protect home buyers from predatory lending practices.	4/27/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Financial Services.
H.R. 2554 National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers Reform Act introduced 5/21/09 by Rep. David Scott (GA)	To reform the National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers, and for other purposes.	5/21/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Financial Services.

COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT

Co-Chairs: Hon. Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX) & Hon. Danny K. Davis (IL)

Focus: Education, Labor & Federal Workforce, Science & Technology, Multimedia, Transportation & Infrastructure, Gulf Coast Recovery, Service



(left to right) Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX); Rep. Carolyn C. Kilpatrick (MI) with singer Yolanda Adams; Rep. Danny K. Davis (IL) meets with students at Williams College; Rep. Sanford D. Bishop (GA), Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX), Rep. James E. Clyburn (SC) and Rep. Corrine Brown (FL) gather at an event.

EDUCATION: The Education Subcommittee actively weighed in within the legislative and executive branches to not only improve education for African American children but children of all racial and ethnic backgrounds.

Civil Rights Data Collection: The CR Taskforce and Education Subcommittee sent two letters to the Secretary of Education supporting expansion of the Civil Rights Data Collection. One letter was sent in conjunction with the CAPAC and CHC to advocate that the data be publicly available. A second letter made specific recommendations related to the collection of discipline data and to the collection data in a manner that would allow examination of data by both race and gender. In response to our suggestions, we were assured that the data would be publicly available and that some additional variables related to discipline were included in the proposed data collection.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA): The CR Taskforce and Education Subcommittee sent a letter to the Secretary of Education expressing concern related to certain policies within the Department of Education related to IDEA that appear to reduce the accountability of states and local school districts in addressing significant racial disparities in discipline and in meeting the needs of students with disabilities. Following our letter, the Secretary sent letters to the chief state school officers urging them to maintain high standards for students with disabilities and to avoid using the flexibilities afforded by the law to reduce spending for students with disabilities when a district is currently not meeting basic requirements of the law.

Elementary and Secondary Education: The CR Taskforce and Education Subcommittee sent a letter to the Chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor and the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education thanking them for examining the use of seclusion and restraint in education settings and asking for their leadership in the federal effort to document and regulate these techniques and to eliminate abusive tactics. Chairman Miller introduced H.R. 4247, Preventing Harmful Restraint and Seclusion in Schools Act, in December 2009 to address these issues.

Higher Education: As the co-chair of the CR Taskforce, Congressman Davis testified before the Judiciary Committee Hearing titled “Undue Hardship? Discharging Educational Debt in Bankruptcy” regarding concerns about the lack of bankruptcy protections for students with private loans, which often lack consumer protections. Given recent studies showing that African American students were statistically more likely than other students to borrow private student loans, the testimony conveyed that the Members of the Community Reinvestment Taskforce are concerned that current bankruptcy law penalizes borrowers for pursuing higher education, provides no incentives to private lenders to lend responsibly, and possibly affects African American borrowers more negatively than borrowers from other racial and ethnic groups.

COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT (CONT.)

Education Appropriations.: The CR Taskforce and Education Subcommittee sent letters to the Chairman of the Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee supporting specific education priorities. One letter supported the Administration's request for \$1.5 billion for the School Improvement grants to Title I schools and for \$50 million for the High School Graduation Initiative. Another letter requested the reinstatement of \$30 million for School Improvement

Grants for areas of the Gulf Coast affected by Hurricanes Katrina, Ike or Gustav. In addition, staff for the Members of the CR Taskforce and the Education Subcommittee met with senior education Appropriations staff to highlight specific programs that benefit the education of African American students. Chairman Obey was very attentive to the concerns raised by the CBC Members.

Education Reconciliation: The CR Taskforce and Education Subcommittee worked actively to ensure that the programs serving the needs of African American students and institutions receive sufficient funding and resources via the education reconciliation bill expected to pass into law early in 2010. Multiple meetings were held with representatives of the Department of Education and HBCUs/PBIs to examine and work through concerns about potential challenges to HBCUs and PBIS in the transition to the Direct Loan. The CR Taskforce and Education Subcommittee Co-Chairs joined with the CAPAC and CHC education leaders in sending letters to the President, the Chairman of the Senate HELP Committee, and to Senators on the HELP Committee outlining the need for substantial investments in HBCUs, PBIs, and other Minority Serving Institutions via the reconciliation bill.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act: During consideration of the Recovery bill, the Education Subcommittee sent a letter to Conferees asking that the final bill ensure the equitable distribution of experienced teachers as required under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and that the bill not allow states to supplant Title I or IDEA funds. After the implementation of the Recovery Act, the CR Taskforce and Education Subcommittee sent a letter to the Secretary of Education raising concerns about the implementation of the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund, one element of the Recovery Act, and the lack of attention to teacher equity.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATHEMATICS (STEM): The Community Reinvestment Taskforce created science and technology priorities to ensure that African Americans and other minorities are not over looked. These priorities were sent to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Science and Technology Committee. The CR Taskforce also held a briefing with the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) introducing them to legislative staff. This briefing was a great opportunity for legislative staff to learn the goals and programs of NSBE. The CR Taskforce sent a letter to the National Science Foundation encouraging them to release an annual report on the numbers of minorities graduating from Universities and Colleges with STEM degrees.

LABOR: The CR Taskforce held a briefing titled "Understanding Unemployment Insurance and Worker Retraining Opportunities" to examine what Congress has done for unemployed workers and how this applies to constituents back home. The panelists explained state and federal unemployment extensions and federal retraining opportunities as well as reforms that may be needed to the unemployment insurance program.

CHILD WELFARE: The CR Taskforce cosponsored a briefing on *Racial Disproportionality and Disparities in Our Nation's Child Welfare System* in conjunction with the Alliance for Racial Equity in Child Welfare in collaboration with the Congressional Black Caucus and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

COMMUNITY SERVICE: The CR Taskforce sponsored a panel discussion about the role of African-American's in the national service movement. The panel participants were: Wendy Kopp- founder and president of Teach For America, the national teaching corps. Colonel Robert L. Gordon III- senior Vice President of Civic Leadership with City Year, a one-year national service organization. James Cleveland – president, Jumpstart, a national non-profit organization for preschool

COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT (CONT.)

children. Shirley Sagawa – presidential appointee in the first Bush and Clinton administrations, and a visiting fellow at the Center for American Progress.

TRANSPORTATION: The CR Taskforce created Transportation & Infrastructure priorities. Since Minorities, particularly African Americans, are grossly under-represented in the transportation and construction trades the CR Taskforce sent a letter the Chairman and Ranking member of the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee outlining what we expect for in future legislation. The CR Taskforce also held a Members only meeting with Secretary Ray LaHood to discuss their transportation concerns.

CBC COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT BILLS TO WATCH

Legislation	Summary	Status
H.R. 272 Freight Rail Infrastructure Capacity Expansion Act of 2009 introduced 1/7/09 by Rep. Kendrick B. Meek (FL)	To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide incentives to encourage investment in the expansion of freight rail infrastructure capacity and to enhance modal tax equity.	1/7/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.
H.R. 795 Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr. Social Work Reinvestment Act introduced 2/3/09 by Rep. Edolphus Towns (NY)	To establish the Social Work Reinvestment Commission to advise Congress and the Secretary of Health and Human Services on policy issues associated with the profession of social work, to authorize the Secretary to make grants to support recruitment, retention, research, and reinvestment in the profession, and for other purposes.	3/23/2009 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Higher Education, Lifelong Learning, and Competitiveness.
H.R. 1789 Freight Rail Expansion Incentives introduced 3/30/09 by Rep. Corrine Brown (FL)	To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide incentives to encourage investment in the expansion of freight rail infrastructure capacity and to enhance modal tax equity.	3/30/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.
H.R. 2355 Making Opportunities Via Efficient and More Effective National Transportation (MOVEMENT) Act introduced 5/12/09 by Rep. Laura Richardson (CA)	To establish a National Goods Movement Improvement Fund to provide funding for infrastructure projects that will improve the movement of goods, mitigate environmental damage caused by the movement of goods, and enhance the security of transported goods.	5/13/2009 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.
H.R. 2451 Student Bill of Rights introduced 5/15/09 by Rep. Chaka Fattah (PA)	To provide for adequate and equitable educational opportunities for students in State public school systems, and for other purposes.	6/11/2009 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education.
H.R. 2570 Working for Adequate Gains for Employment in Services (WAGES) Act introduced 5/21/09 by Rep. Donna F. Edwards (MD)	To amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to establish a base minimum wage for tipped employees.	5/21/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor.
H.R. 2979 Julia Carson Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Families Act of 2009 introduced by Rep. Danny K. Davis (IL)	To amend title IV of the Social Security Act to ensure funding for grants to promote responsible fatherhood and strengthen low-income families, and for other purposes.	6/19/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Labor, Energy and Commerce, and Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.
H.R. 3465 Federal Electronic Equipment Donation Act introduced by Rep. G.K. Butterfield (NC)	To direct Federal agencies to transfer excess Federal electronic equipment, including computers, computer components, printers, and fax machines, to educational recipients.	7/31/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.
H. Res. 210 Student Breakfast and Education Improvement Act introduced 3/4/09 by Rep. Gwen Moore (WI)	Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that providing breakfast in schools through the National School Breakfast Program has a positive impact on classroom performance.	3/9/2009 Passed/agreed to in House. Status: On motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 383 - 11 (Roll no. 110).

FOREIGN POLICY & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Hon. Donald M. Payne (NJ), Chair

Focus: Africa, the Caribbean, General Diplomacy, Health, HIV/AIDS, Education, Development, Trade



(left to right) Rep. Corrine Brown (FL) and Rep. Donald M. Payne (NJ) with Ambassador Raymond Joseph of Haiti; CBC members join actress Mia Farrow and Darfur activists in a fast for Darfur; Rep. Yvette D. Clarke (NY); Rep. Barbara Lee (CA) with singer and activist Bono; Rep. James E. Clyburn (SC) with Arch Bishop Desmond Tutu.

The CBC continues to work towards strengthening U.S. relations with the world and be advocates for people of African decent throughout the Diaspora. Below is a brief highlight of activities:

Liberia: As a result of CBC advocacy, meetings and public rallies, a 12-month extension of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) was granted for Liberians living in the U.S.

Sudan: CBC members joined actress Mia Farrow and activists for a “Fast for Darfur” to bring attention to the ongoing need to keep the spotlight and pressure on the Sudanese government and world leaders. Members also met with Special Envoy Scott Gration to discuss the Administration’s new policy and express ongoing concerns.

African Union: CBC members hosted a roundtable meeting with leaders of the African Union to discuss U.S.-AU cooperation on various issues, including Darfur, Somalia, and Zimbabwe.

World Bank Diversity: CBC members joined community leaders in expressing concern for the lack of diversity in staffing at the World Bank. As a result, the Inter-American Development Bank conference on diversity in hiring was established.

Haiti: Members met with Secretary Clinton and key Haiti staffers for briefings on the Administration’s Haiti related policies and initiatives.

Durban Review Conference (Follow up to the World Conference Against Racism of 2001): CBC members expressed concerns over U.S. boycott to Ambassador Susan Rice; Staff met with Administration officials to urge U.S. engagement.

Cuba: A Congressional Delegation (CODEL) of CBC members traveled to Cuba and met with high level officials of the Cuban government, including Raul Castro, the ministers of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Following this CODEL, the Obama Administration announced significant changes in U.S. policy toward Cuba to facilitate travel and remittances between the two countries.

CBC FOREIGN POLICY & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS BILLS TO WATCH

Legislation	Summary	Bill Status
H.R. 144 Haitian Protection Act of 2009 introduced 1/6/09 by Rep. Alcee L. Hastings (FL)	To designate Haiti under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act in order to render nationals of Haiti eligible for temporary protected status under such section.	2/9/2009 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law.
The Liberia SEEDS (Stabilization, Economic Empowerment, Development and Security) Act to be introduced by Rep. Jesse Jackson, Jr. (IL)		No Republicans have agreed to cosponsor. In lieu of a bipartisan bill, it will be introduced with Democratic Members before the end of 2009.
H.R. 4392 African Higher Education Expansion and Improvement Act introduced 12/16/09 by Rep. Donald M. Payne (NJ)	To amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide assistance to expand, improve, support, and promote higher education in the countries of sub-Saharan Africa.	12/16/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Hon. G.K. Butterfield (NC), Hon. Emanuel Cleaver, II (MO) & Hon. Sheila Jackson Lee (TX), Co-Chairs

Focus: Green Jobs, Climate Change, Energy & Alternative Energy Options, Environmental Justice

The CBC's Energy & Environment Task Force played an active role in ensuring the minority and low income communities we protected and empowered by those policies shaping the future of energy and environmental issues in our nation and around the world. The Task Forces 2009 priorities included:

Housing: Weatherization for low-income homes (Stimulus, Climate Change, LIHEAP); Removing toxics (lead, asbestos, etc.) from homes that develop into health hazards – including homes in southern climates that have been foreclosed upon and are neglected.

Health: Ensuring the health of people that live in environmentally-compromised areas (urban, rural, & coasts); Protecting the public as temperatures rise and tropical diseases spread northward into temperate climates.

Adaptation: Helping low-income communities adapt to changing climate (homes, energy costs, etc.) – especially along coastal areas that are hit by sea level rise and increased intensity of the weather.

Environmental Justice: Codification of the Executive order and implementation of EPA Inspector General Recommendations on Environmental Justice; Formal establishment of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council and interagency implementation of environmental justice provisions; Repeal of “disparate impact” limitations established in *Alexander v. Sandoval*, which prevent redress in civil rights and environmental justice legal cases.

Green Jobs: Ensuring, and educating communities about green job creation, replacement and training opportunities in green arenas such as alternative energy sources are introduced – especially in low-income communities and among those dependent upon industry jobs; Educating communities on green job opportunities provided by economic stimulus packages, climate change, other energy related legislation.

Climate Change Legislation: Ensuring consumer protection mitigation for low and middle-income individuals (remembering those, such as seniors, who pay little-to-no taxes). The CBC advocated the following priorities within **H.R. 2454 AMERICAN CLEAN ENERGY & SECURITY ACT (ACES): Investment in the green economy** – opportunities for green jobs, career pathways, involvement of HBCUs; **Consumer protection** – help for lowest quintiles and prevention of hot spots in vulnerable communities; **Job leakage protection and assistance to workers and communities** transitioning from high emitting technologies to low carbon economy; and **Adaptation funding** – ecosystem preservation, agricultural assistance, and health care assistance.

Education & Outreach: The Task Force established the CBC Green Roundtable network in the summer of 2009 in an effort to engage community and business leaders in creating a “green agenda for Black communities.” The CBC Green Roundtable hosted an initial convening in July with leaders from around the country and met with White House officials from the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Energy, the Department of Interior and the Department of Housing and Urban Development during the CBC Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference.

Environment Justice: The CBC announced that it will join forces with EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson to host an Environmental Justice Tour of CBC districts to address environmental concerns in under-served communities around the nation. The tour will commence in 2010.



(top to bottom) Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, II (MO) announces the Kansas City Green Impact Zone; Rep. G.K. Butterfield (NC) meets with students; Rep. Bobby L. Rush (IL) hosts a constituent in Washington, D.C.

JUDICIAL & CIVIL RIGHTS

Hon. Melvin L. Watt (NC), Hon. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (VA) & Hon. Sheila Jackson Lee (TX), Co-Chairs

Focus: Census, Elections, Judicial Appointments, Immigration, Re-Entry & Restoration, Ethics & Government Oversight, Nominations, Criminal Justice Reform

Dialogues on Race: In line with its historic role as the “Conscience of Congress,” the CBC has strongly advocated for the elimination of disparities. Some of these disparities can be attributed to the continued existence of gaps in the treatment, opportunities, and support available to communities of color. The CBC hosted a “Dialogue on Race” in November 2009 to explore the scientific and historical significance of race, its impact in creating disparities and policy solutions to address those disparities. During the “Dialogue” the CBC also recognized the 25th Anniversary of Rev. Jesse Jackson’s historic run for President.

D.C. Voting Rights: Task Force members have continued to strategize with Congressional leaders, the Administration and advocacy groups on how it can get the D.C. Voting Rights Act passed into law without debilitating provisions such as the amendment restricting the ability of D.C. to regulate handguns within its borders.

Imperial Presidency: Under the leadership of Task Force members, Judiciary Chairman Conyers, the Judiciary Committee issued a comprehensive and well documented report on indicated abuses of government power by the Bush Administration. As a result, investigations are also being conducted into areas examined in the report.

Deaths in Custody Reporting Act: The Act was passed by the House and now awaits action in the Senate. It requires law enforcement agencies and institutions report the facts and circumstances of deaths that occur in their custody to the Attorney General of the United States. In the 10 years since its initial authorization, deaths in custody have been reduced by more than 50%.

Crack/Powder Disparity: A bi-partisan bill sponsored by Task Force members to eliminate the crack/powder sentencing disparity. The bill passed the House Judiciary Committee and is awaiting House Floor action. A similar bill has been introduced in the Senate.

Mandatory Minimum Sentencing: A bi-partisan bill was introduced to allow judges discretion to avoid applying a federal mandatory minimum sentence which would be an injustice under the circumstances of the case, sponsored by Task Force member Rep. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott, has passed the Crime Subcommittee which he chairs, and awaits full judiciary Committee action.

Juvenile Life Without Parole, Discretionary Release of Federal Non-Violent Offenders, Indigent Defense and Incarceration Alternatives: Under the leadership and urging of Task Force members, hearings have been held or are contemplated in the House Judiciary Committee or subcommittees, on these and related subjects.

DOJ Civil Rights, Judicial and Criminal Justice Appointments: Task Force members continue to be involved in Justice Department, judicial and other related appointments affecting law enforcement to ensure that an able and diverse group of officials are appointed to Judiciary other federal law enforcement positions.

Second Chance Act: Task Force members met with and wrote letters to Administration officials to obtain \$25 million for Second Chance Act assistance to ex-offenders in the economic stimulus package for the remainder of the 2009 FFY, and in removing the local match requirements for grants. Task Force members have also been successful in obtaining the \$100 million for the Second Act in the House Appropriation for the U.S. Justice Department for FFY 2010.

Restitution and Access to Programs for the Exonerated, Criminal Background Check Standards and Removal of Disabilities due to Felony Conviction: Legislation has been filed by and hearings are planned in the House Judiciary Committee under the leadership of Task Force members on these issues.

Youth PROMISE Act: Under the leadership of Task Force member Rep. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott, the Youth promise Act has passed the House Judiciary Committee and is awaiting action by the Education and Labor Committee before going to the House Floor.

JUDICIAL & CIVIL RIGHTS (CONT.)

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act and the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant: Bi-partisan bills have been filed and they are expected to pass into law in the 111th Congress.

Black Farmers: Task Force members have continued to advocate for payment of *Pigford* late filer claims pursuant to the legislation passed in the 110th Congress, through meetings with Administration officials, letter writing, and bill filing. An effort will be made to further development of the issue in the upcoming discussions on a Jobs Bill.

Hate Crimes Prevention Act: Through the leadership and advocacy of Task Force member John Conyers and other Task Force members, the Hate Crimes Prevention Act has been signed into law.

Oversight of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice: Under the leadership of Task Force members and Judiciary Committee Chairman John Conyers, the Judiciary Committee held an oversight hearing to examine the findings of a General Accounting Office (GAO) study analyzing the enforcement efforts of the Civil Rights Division to ensure that the division was fulfilling its responsibility to enforce all civil rights laws fairly and aggressively.

Tulsa-Greenwood Race Riot Claims Accountability Act: Task Force members have continued to advocate for H.R. 1843, the "John Hope Franklin Tulsa-Greenwood Race Riot Claims Accountability Act of 2009," which would allow the time-barred legal claims brought by the survivors and descendants of the victims of the Tulsa, Oklahoma Race Riot of 1921 to receive a determination on the merits. H.R. 1843 was reported favorably by the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties to the Full Judiciary Committee and is awaiting further action.

CBC JUDICIAL & CIVIL RIGHTS BILLS TO WATCH

Legislation	Summary	Bill Status
H.R. 61 Federal Prison Bureau Non-violent Offender Relief Act of 2009 introduced 1/6/09 by Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (TX)	To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide an alternate release date for certain nonviolent offenders, and for other purposes.	2/9/2009 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.
H.R. 157 District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act of 2009 introduced 1/6/09 by Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (DC)	To provide for the treatment of the District of Columbia as a Congressional district for purposes of representation in the House of Representatives, and for other purposes.	This bill was reported out of the Judiciary Committee and passed by the Full House. A similar bill was passed by the Senate however an amendment relating to loosening gun laws in the District of Columbia was attached to the bill in the Senate and has thus far prevented further action.
H.R. 685 the United States Civil Rights Trail System Act of 2009 introduced 1/26/09 by Rep. Wm. Lacy Clay, Jr. (MO)	To require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study regarding the proposed United States Civil Rights Trail, and for other purposes.	9/30/2009 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
H.R. 1020 Arbitration Fairness Act of 2009 introduced 2/12/09 by Rep. Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr. (GA)	To amend chapter 1 of title 9 of United States Code with respect to arbitration.	3/16/2009 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law.
H.R. 1064/S. 435 the Youth P.R.O.M.I.S.E. (Prison Reduction through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention, Support and Education) Act introduced 2/13/09 by Rep. Robert C. "Bobby" Scott (VA)	To provide for evidence-based and promising practices related to juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity prevention and intervention to help build individual, family, and community strength and resiliency to ensure that youth lead productive, safe, healthy, gang-free, and law-abiding lives.	12/2/2009 House committee/subcommittee actions. Status: Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by the Yeas and Nays: 17 - 14.
H.R. 1741 Witness Security and Protection Grant Program Act of 2009 introduced 3/26/09 by Rep. Elijah E. Cummings (MD)	To require the Attorney General to make competitive grants to eligible State, tribal, and local governments to establish and maintain certain protection and witness assistance programs.	1/28/2010 Senate committee/subcommittee actions. Status: Committee on the Judiciary.
H.R. 2648 Muhammad Ali Congressional Gold Medal Resolution introduced 6/2/09 by Rep. Andre Carson (IN)	To authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of Congress to	6/2/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Financial Services.
H.R. 2761 Federal Recognition of the Freedman Citizens of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma introduced 6/8/09 by Rep. Diane E. Watson (CA)	To sever United States' government relations with the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma until such time as the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma restores full tribal citizenship to the Cherokee Freedmen disenfranchised in the March 3, 2007, Cherokee Nation vote and fulfills all its treaty obligations with the Government of the United States, and for other	8/19/2009 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties.

DEFENSE, VETERANS & HOMELAND SECURITY

Hon. Charles B. Rangel (NY), Hon. Bennie G. Thompson (MS) & Hon. Sanford Bishop (GA), Co-Chairs

Focus: National Security, Veterans Support



(left to right) Rep. Sanford Bishop (GA) and Rep. Kendrick Meek (FL) meet with U.S. military leaders; Rep. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (VA) with U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder; Rep. Laura Richardson (CA) meets with military men and women; Rep. Bennie G. Thompson (MS).

The Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) proudly supports the men and women of United States armed forces who sacrifice to keep the nation safe and secure. The caucus firmly believes that national security and defense of the homeland can and must be done consistently with the Constitution and values of the United States. Through legislation, the CBC ensured that the nation’s military men and women had the best weapons, equipment, material and family support to successfully accomplish their mission.

Iraq and Afghanistan: On February 24, 2009, the CBC met with President Obama to express its support in the United States’ struggle against extremism. The caucus fully supported President Obama’s commitment to reduce the US military presence in Iraq. For Afghanistan, the Caucus stressed to the President the necessity to carefully consider a new strategy, utilize all elements of national power, and develop sound metrics to measure progress for the conflict.

Small, Disadvantaged Businesses: The CBC met, discussed and held hearings to express its concern about small and disadvantaged business opportunities with the Department of Defense. The caucus was specifically concerned about historically black colleges and universities (HBCU’s) and minority-owned businesses. This is an ongoing issue of significant concern that the CBC will continue to address and monitor through the House Armed Services and the House Appropriations for Defense subcommittees.

Base Realignment and Construction (BRAC) Impact on Local Communities: The significant impact of BRAC on local communities was addressed by the caucus in hearings and meetings with Department of Defense (DOD) officials. One of the major issues addressed was the dramatic impact that BRAC had on the local communities—both in terms of increased and decreased military personnel presence in various communities. Recognizing the significant economic impact and associated challenges BRAC had on communities, the various armed services committees worked very diligently with DOD planning funds to ensure the transition by communities was successful.

African Command (AFRICOM): Although the CBC acknowledges the traditional roles and responsibilities of geographic combatant commands to lead and facilitate military operations, the caucus supports the new and evolving defense strategy of conflict prevention, theater security cooperation, and capacity building. On March 30, 2009, the House Appropriations Subcommittee for Defense, chaired by Congressman Sanford Bishop Jr., held a hearing on AFRICOM. The results of the meeting aided in cementing a defense strategy of conflict prevention, diplomacy, and theater security cooperation. The CBC strongly supports the expanded cooperative utilization of diplomacy (State Department), development (Agency for International Development), and other humanitarian efforts.

Diversity within the Commissioned Officer Ranks of the Military: The CBC views diversity as a strength within our military. The CBC wants to ensure that there is an adequate pipeline for minority commissioned officers in the United States military. Although minority enlisted personnel make up 20 percent of the enlisted military force, only 8 percent of the officer ranks are composed of minorities, compared to 80%/92% enlisted/officer ratio for non-minorities. The CBC worked with the Joint Chiefs on increasing the diversity within the “Flag Officer” ranks through expanding the pool of minority officers and assuring they have the requisite career track management.

DEFENSE, VETERANS & HOMELAND SECURITY (CONT.)

Personnel and Weapons Cost: Given the multiple challenges and impact of growing the force, acquisition needs, weapon modernization and readiness issues, the CBC believed that the legislative and executive branches needed to “rethink” planned personnel and weapons program growth. The need for balancing the federal budget required that “hard choices” be made in the area of defense to ensure that the United States security needs would be met in the future.

One of the key ways to reduce the budget in the area was to discontinue weapon system programs that were over budget and inconsistent with the current and future national security strategy. Two major weapon systems that were cancelled were the F-22A Raptor Aircraft and the Army’s Future Combat System (FCS) ground vehicle program. Neither weapon system was relevant to President Obama’s or Secretary of Defense Robert Gates’ vision for moving the military’s future conflicts.

CBC DEFENSE, VETERANS & HOMELAND SECURITY BILLS TO WATCH

Legislation	Summary	Bill Status
H.R. 1849 World War I Memorial and Centennial Act of 2009 introduced 4/1/09 by Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, II (MO)	To designate the Liberty Memorial at the National World War I Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, as the National World War I Memorial, to establish the World War I centennial commission to ensure a suitable observance of the centennial of World War I, and for other purposes.	12/3/2009 Senate committee/subcommittee actions. Status: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks. Hearings held.
H.R. 1982 the Veteran’s Entitlement to Service (VETS) Act of 2009 introduced 4/21/09 by Rep. Carolyn C. Kilpatrick (MI)	To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to acknowledge the receipt of medical, disability, and pension claims and other communications submitted by veterans.	5/22/2009 House committee/subcommittee actions. Status: Subcommittee Hearings Held.
H.R. 1963 Veterans Transition Assistance Program introduced 4/2/09 by Rep. Charles B. Rangel (NY)	To amend title 10, United States Code, to ensure that members of the Armed Forces who are being separated from active duty receive comprehensive employment assistance, job training assistance, and other transitional services, to require that such members receive a psychological evaluation in addition to the physical examination they receive as part of their separation from active duty, and for other purposes.	4/27/2009 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.
H.R. 2868 Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Act of 2009 introduced 6/15/09 by Rep. Bennie G. Thompson (MS)	To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance security and protect against acts of terrorism against chemical facilities, to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to enhance the security of public water systems, and to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to enhance the security of wastewater treatment works, and for other purposes.	11/9/2009 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.
Veterans Health Care Act to be introduced by Sen. Roland Burris (IL)*		

OUTREACH

Hon. Elijah E. Cummings (MD), Chair

Focus: Faith Communities, Families: Women, Men, Teens & Young Adults (16-25), Emerging Leaders: Young Elected Officials, Young Professionals, State & Local Governments, Congressional TriCaucus, Academia, Entertainers & Athletes, Executive Leadership Council/Business Community



Rep. Elijah Cummings (MD) at an Outreach event; Rep. John Conyers, Jr.; Rep. Yvette D. Clarke (NY) with Judith Jamison; Rep. John Lewis (GA), Rep. Edolphus Towns (NY), Rep. Charles B. Rangel (NY) at the CBC swearing in ceremony.

The CBC's Outreach Task Force is charged with building and maintaining relationships with various White House officials, world leaders and community networks to work on the legislative priorities of the Caucus. The Outreach Task Force hosts various meetings and events on Capitol Hill, and around the nation and is charged with disseminating information to issue and community specific networks on a regular basis through the Congressional Black Caucus office. Below is a highlight of activities:

Administration Visits: The CBC continues to support President Obama's vision to provide access and opportunity to American families. In addition to meeting with President Obama and his senior advisors, the CBC hosted meetings with the following White House representatives in 2009:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 3/18/2009, Attorney General Eric Holder , Department of Justice | 7/22/2009, Secretary Tom Vilsack , Department of Agriculture |
| 3/24/2009, Secretary Ray LaHood , Department of Transportation | 7/29/2009, Ambassador Ron Kirk , U.S. Trade Representative |
| 4/29/2009, Secretary Arne Duncan , Department of Education | 9/16/2009, Melody Barnes , White House Office of Domestic Policy |
| 5/6/2009, Administrator Lisa Jackson , Environmental Protection Agency | 10/7/2009, Secretary Gary Locke , Department of Commerce |
| 6/10/2009, Van Jones , Council for Environmental Quality | 10/14/2009, Secretary Janet Napolitano , Department of Homeland Security |
| 6/16/2009, Secretary Kathleen Sibelius , Department of Health and Human Services | 10/21/2009, John Berry , Office of Personnel Management |
| 6/24/2009, Secretary Ken Salazar , Department of Interior | 11/18/2009, John Wilson , White House Initiative on HBCU's |
| 7/9/2009, Secretary Steven Chu , Department of Energy | 12/9/2009, Assistant Secretary John Morton , Immigration and Customs Enforcement |
| 7/15/2009, Secretary Shaun Donovan , Department of Housing and Urban Development | 12/16/2009, Adolfo Carrion , White House Office of Urban Affairs |
| 7/15/2009, Secretary Hillary Clinton, Department of State | |

OUTREACH (CONT.)



Speaker Nancy Pelosi (CA) and Rep. Diane Watson (CA) with Danny Bakewell, Sr., President of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA); Rep. John Lewis (GA) with singer and activist Bono; Rep. Andre Carson (IN) at a community event; Rep. Al Green (TX).

Web-Based Communications: The CBC joins the world in regularly utilizing web-based technology to dissemination information and communicate with constituents, coalition partners and friends. In early 2010, the CBC will launch a new and improved website. The CBC can also be found on Face Book. The CBC office regularly communicates with press and coalition partners through a series of email networks.

Community Specific Outreach: The Outreach Task Force was especially successful in creating and maintaining the following Roundtable networks: CBC Faith Leaders Roundtable; CBC Green Roundtable; CBC Business Roundtable; and the CBC Black Elected Officials Roundtable. Each of these networks has or is establishing corresponding email networks. To join any of these email groups, please send a request to congressionblackcaucus@mail.house.gov. Outreach efforts in 2010 will also focus on strengthening relationships with the next generation of young leaders.

Staff Diversity on Capitol Hill and in the Federal Government : The CBC is especially interested in the recruitment and retention of diverse staffers on Capitol Hill and throughout the federal government. The CBC has issued a number of letters to Congressional leadership encouraging more emphasis be placed on hiring a workforce that reflects America's diversity and is actively working with leadership, the Congressional TriCaucus and the Congressional TriCaucus Staff Associations to institutionalize diversity initiatives in the U.S. House of Representatives. The CBC has also actively supported President Obama's vision to strengthen diversity hiring practices in the Executive Branch.

PRESS STATEMENTS

The following press statements were released during 2009. For full text of each statement, please visit www.TheCongressionalBlackCaucus.com.

January

1/5/2009 [Congressional Black Caucus Swears –In New Chair, Officers](#)

1/8/2009 [Congressional Black Caucus Supports Seating of Burris](#)

1/9/2009 [CBC Releases Statement on Recent Unemployment Numbers](#)

1/12/2009 [Congressional Black Caucus Applauds Senate Decision to Seat Burris](#)

February

2/3/2009 [CBC Chairwoman Barbara Lee Releases Statement Celebrating Black History Month](#)

2/3/2009 [Chairwoman Barbara Lee Statement on Commerce Secretary Nominee Gregg](#)

2/4/2009 [CBC Members Lee, Rangel and Christensen Applaud SCHIP Signing](#)

2/6/2009 [Chairwoman Lee Statement on Census Bureau](#)

2/11/2009 [CBC Releases Letter on Priorities in Stimulus Package](#)

2/11/2009 [CBC Honors Reconstruction Era Black Members of Congress](#)

2/12/2009 [CBC Statement On 100th Anniversary of the NAACP](#)

2/12/2009 [Congressional Black Caucus to Hold News Conference on The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009](#)

2/23/2009 [Chairwoman Barbara Lee Statement on White House Fiscal Summit](#)

2/24/2009 [CBC Applauds Senate Vote to Grant Voting Rights to District of Columbia](#)

March

3/3/2009 [CBC Program Honoring Shirley Chisholm](#)

3/4/2009 [Statement from CBC Chairwoman Barbara Lee On The Use of Negative Racial Stereotype In The Media](#)

3/6/2009 [Statement from CBC Chairwoman Barbara Lee on Recent Unemployment Numbers](#)

3/10/2009 [Lee Statement on Status of DC House Voting Rights Act](#)

3/16/2009 [CBC SPECIAL ORDER HOUR ON FORECLOSURE CRISIS TONIGHT](#)

3/18/2009 [Lee Statement on Darfur Calling for Prompt Appointment of Special Envoy](#)

3/23/2009 [LEE APPLAUDS OBAMA DECISION ON LIBERIANS LIVING IN U.S.](#)

3/23/2009 [CBC SPECIAL ORDER HOUR ON LIBERIA, HAITI AND SUDAN TONIGHT](#)

3/25/2009 [Lee Statement on Passing of Dr. John Hope Franklin](#)

3/27/2009 [*** Media Advisory *** CBC Members Hold Press Availability During Monday's TARP & TALF Access Summit for Minority Vendors](#)

3/30/2009 [CBC Members Hold TARP & TALF Access Summit for Minority Vendors](#)

April

4/2/2009 [Building Upon the President's Blueprint for Success, The Congressional Black Caucus Offers Budget Substitute](#)

4/18/2009 [CBC Statement On U.S. Boycott of Durban Review Conference](#)

4/22/2009 [CBC Releases Letter on Energy Priorities](#)

4/27/2009 [Special Order Hour on Energy and Environmental Policy](#)

4/28/2009 [Caucuses Unite Behind Public Health Insurance Plan Option](#)

May

5/4/2009 [CBC SPECIAL ORDER HOUR ON HEALTHCARE TONIGHT](#)

5/18/2009 [CBC SPECIAL ORDER HOUR ON HEALTHCARE TONIGHT](#)

5/19/2009 [CBC Launches Capitol Hill Darfur Fast for Life Campaign](#)

5/26/2009 [President Obama's Choice of Sotomayor for Supreme Court](#)

5/27/2009 [CBC Chairwoman Barbara Lee Applauds Nomination of Bolden to Lead NASA](#)

PRESS STATEMENTS (CONT.)

June

- 6/5/2009 [*** MEDIA ADVISORY***CONGRESSIONAL TRICAUCUS MEMBERS ON HEALTHCARE REFORM:"COVERAGE IS NOT ENOUGH"](#)
- 6/8/2009 [CBC Releases Letter on Healthcare Priorities](#)
- 6/9/2009 [Speaking With One Voice Congressional TriCaucus Declares: "COVERAGE IS NOT ENOUGH"](#)
- 6/19/2009 [TriCaucus Encouraged by Health Reform Draft Unveiled Today Many TriCaucus Priorities Included](#)
- 6/22/2009 [*** MEDIA ADVISORY***Caucuses Declare: Public Health Plan Option A Must CBC, CHC, CAPAC and CPC Speak with one voice](#)
- 6/22/2009 [Lee Statement On Voting Rights Ruling](#)
- 6/26/2009 [Lee Statement on Passing of Michael Jackson](#)
- 6/26/2009 [CBC Chairwoman Releases Statement on Clean Energy Act](#)
- 6/30/2009 [CBC Chairwoman Barbara Lee Releases Statement on Supreme Court Ruling in New Haven Firefighters Case](#)
- 7/7/2009 [Statement on Recognizing Slave Laborers in the Construction of the United States Capitol](#)

July

- 7/10/2009 [CBC Chairwoman Barbara Lee Applauds President Obama's Choice of Sotomayor for Supreme Court](#)
- 7/14/2009 [TriCaucus Encouraged by Health Reform Bill Introduced Today Many TriCaucus Priorities Included](#)

August

- 8/6/2009 [CBC Chairwoman Barbara Lee Applauds Confirmation of Sotomayor for Supreme Court](#)
- 8/10/2009 [Congresswoman Barbara Lee Calls For An Extension In Unemployment Benefits](#)
- 8/11/2009 [Rep. Johnson holds successful health care town hall](#)
- 8/17/2009 [CBC Chairwoman Barbara Lee Statement on Health Reform](#)

- 8/26/2009 [CBC Chairwoman Barbara Lee Releases Statement on the Passing of Sen. Edward M. Kennedy](#)

September

- 9/2/2009 [Rep. Yvette D. Clarke Hosts Successful Health Care Town Hall Meetings Residents of the 11th Congressional District of New York Express Overwhelming Support for Obama's Health Care Reform and Public Option](#)
- 9/3/2009 [CBC Releases Health Reform Letter to President Obama](#)
- 9/9/2009 [CBC Members Issue Joint Statement on Healthcare](#)
- 9/9/2009 [National African-American Leaders and Congressional Black Caucus Members Hold Press Announcement at U. S. Capitol to Dispel Myths and Urge Americans to Support Health Care Reform](#)

October

- 10/30/2009 [CBC Chair Applauds Signing of Ryan White HIV/AIDS Act](#)

November

- 11/10/2009 [*** MEDIA ADVISORY*** CBC Chair Lee Holds Opening News Conference on Eve of UN Minority Issues Forum](#)
- 11/13/2009 [*** MEDIA ADVISORY***CBC Holds "Discussion on Race" Forum to examine critical role of race in our society; its scientific, historic, legal and socio-cultural role](#)
- 11/18/2009 [Lee Statement on 25th Anniversary of Rev. Jesse L. Jackson's Run for President](#)

December

- 12/3/2009 [Chairwoman Barbara Lee Statement on White House Forum on Jobs & Economic Growth](#)
- 12/8/2009 [Chairwoman Barbara Lee Statement on President Obama's Jobs Speech](#)
- 12/11/2009 [Chairwoman Barbara Lee Statement on The Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act](#)

MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS



CBC Members being sworn in for the 111th Congress

- HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR., MI—'65**
HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS, NY—'83
HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, NJ—'89
HON. MAXINE WATERS, CA—'91
HON. CORRINE BROWN, FL—'93
HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS, FL—'93
HON. BOBBY L. RUSH, IL—'93
HON. MELVIN L. WATT, NC—'93
HON. CHAKA FATTAH, PA—'95
HON. JESSE JACKSON, JR., IL—'95
HON. DONNA CHRISTENSEN, VI—'97
HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK, MI—'97
HON. BARBARA LEE, CA—'98
HON. DIANE E. WATSON, CA—'01
HON. KENDRICK MEEK, FL—'03
HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD, NC—'04
HON. AL GREEN, TX—'05
HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE, NY—'07
HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR., GA—'07
HON. ANDRÉ CARSON, IN—'08
HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE, OH—'08
- HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL, NY—'71**
HON. JOHN LEWIS, GA—'87
HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, DC—'91
HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, GA—'93
HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN, SC—'93
HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, TX—'93
HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT, VA—'93
HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON, MS—'93
HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE, TX—'95
HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS, MD—'96
HON. DANNY K. DAVIS, IL—'97
HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS, NY—'98
HON. WM. LACY CLAY, JR., MO—'01
HON. ARTUR DAVIS, AL—'03
HON. DAVID SCOTT, GA—'03
HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER II, MO—'05
HON. GWEN MOORE, WI—'05
HON. KEITH ELLISON, MN—'07
HON. LAURA RICHARDSON, CA—'07
HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS, MD—'08
HON. ROLAND BURRIS, IL—'09

CBC members listed in order of seniority from left to right.

Executive Officers

Hon. Barbara Lee (CA)

Chairwoman

Hon. Emanuel Cleaver, II (MO)

First Vice-Chair

Hon. Donna M. Christensen (VI)

Second Vice-Chair

Hon. G.K. Butterfield (NC)

Secretary

Hon. Yvette D. Clarke (NY)

Whip

Statement of Purpose

Since 1971, the Members of the Congressional Black Caucus (at times referred to herein as the “CBC” or “Caucus”) have joined together to strengthen their efforts to empower America’s neglected citizens—including but not limited to Americans of color—by more effectively addressing our legislative concerns. The Congressional Black Caucus is committed to utilizing the full constitutional power, statutory authority, and financial resources of the Government of the United States of America to ensure, insofar as possible, that everyone in the United States has an opportunity to live out the American Dream. The legislative agenda of universal empowerment that the Members of the Caucus shall collectively pursue shall include, but are not limited to: the creation of universal access to a world class education from birth through post secondary level; the creation of universal access to quality, affordable health care and the elimination of racially based health disparities; the creation of universal access to modern technology, capital, and full, fairly-compensated employment; the creation and or expansion of UA foreign policy initiatives that will contribute to the survival, health, education, and general welfare of all peoples of the world in a manner consistent with universal human dignity, tolerance, and respect, and such other legislative action as a majority of the entire CBC membership from time to time may support.



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